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Security Information

22 September 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. CHARLES R. NORBERG  
Office of Coordination  
Psychological Strategy Board

SUBJECT : Psychiatric Warfare—Project "Essex"

1. These informal comments are submitted in response to your request to the Acting Chief, Psychological Warfare Division.

2. The ultimate effectiveness of this plan is based upon the vulnerabilities of the target under consideration and the degree with which this technique may be applied.

3. Generally speaking, all psychological warfare operations contribute to the emotional instability of the enemy by appealing to the fears, suspicions, anxieties, and hostilities of the target audience. In this respect, there is a requirement for a compilation of data on psychological climates which prevail in the various geographic areas of the USSR. This data would reveal the emotional stability and the vulnerabilities of the various target groups. However, there is no psychiatric technique known in this country at the present time which is capable of destroying individual or group personalities.

4. The specific use of psychiatric warfare as a refined weapon of psychological warfare would involve such conditions as the following:

a. The nature of human emotional adjustment with special emphasis on the dynamics of mental mechanisms, and the causes and effects of abnormal behavior.

b. The cultural behavior, norms, and tension points of the target audience.

c. The ultimate goals to be achieved.

d. The capability of applying this technique to the target groups under discussion.

5. It is our


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5. It is our opinion that the current sociological conditions within police states such as the USSR would prevent the possibility of utilizing this specific plan. It is recommended that all effort be concentrated on those activities which have a reasonable prospect of early favorable results and that peripheral activities and approaches be avoided which are tangential to the main psychological warfare effort.

**SIGNED**

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Special Assistant  
for Plans and Programs

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SPP/LWG:blr

Distribution:

Addressee - orig. & 1

SPP (2)

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## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Routing and Record Sheet should be returned to Registry.

FROM:

J.R.Z.

NO.

DATE

TO	ROOM NO	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
		REC'D	FWD'D		
1. AC/Py	1062 J.	1039 18 Sept	18 Sept	CPH	25X1
2. AEXO		17 Sept	17 Sept	PB	2-1 Suggestive reply to Norberg
3. [Redacted]		103 22 Sept		G	along lines of [Redacted] 25X1
4. AC/Py	1062 J				comments. PB 25X1
5.					
6.					1-3
7. 25X1					no encir with your views. Wmed you care to communicate them to [Redacted] 25X1
8.					
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